



## Environmental Living Program Information

Thank you for your interest in the Environmental Living Program (ELP) at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park. This engaging program has been educating and entertaining children since 1976. The program allows students spend 24 hours (including overnight) at Sutter's Fort. During their time here, they can portray characters of 1840s California and partake in the various activities, trades, and entertainment of the era. The program is highly flexible, giving teachers the ability to create their own unique experience; requires strong parent support and participation; and is a fabulous teaching tool based on students learning through first-hand interaction and hands-on experiences.

### **Requirements and Restrictions**

- The program is available to public, private, and home school groups.
- The program is limited to elementary school students.
- The program is limited to a maximum of 100 student participants. We recommend that in order to optimize the experience of participating students, the number of students be kept between 30 and 70. There is also only indoor sleeping for 60 students, plus 10 adults; the remaining students and adults must sleep outside on the lawn within the fort walls.

### **Program Summary**

- The program starts at 8:00am and ends by 9:00am the following day.
- On an ELP day, the children arrive in the morning, usually by wagon, dressed in period clothing. They spend the day in small groups rotating every half hour or so between various stations run by their parents. At the stations, they learn about and participate in many of the jobs that would have been performed at the Fort between 1839 and 1850.
- At night, groups take turns keeping a night watch, while the others are comfortably asleep.

### **Application Process**

- An application completed by a teacher is required to participate in ELP.
- Applications are only accepted November through June 1st for the following school year.
- Please submit only one application per number of days you plan to participate; if you have two classes but want them to come on the same day, please only submit one application.
- Because of the popularity of ELP, more applications are usually submitted than the number of spaces available; as a result, applications are selected by a random lottery drawn (more information available).
- Available ELP days are most Tuesdays and Thursdays from November to early June.

### **Cost**

- The program participation fee is \$600. The program fee covers up to 65 students; each additional student is \$3 (maximum of 100 students).





- A nonrefundable \$150 deposit is required by the time of the first workshop in order to secure your place in the program.
- You will incur other costs (food, project supplies, entertainment, etc.). The full amount of these additional costs depends on what you decide to do with your ELP; for example, some groups may hire musicians for their evening entertainment while other schools may simply choose to do skits themselves.
- Although the total cost can vary greatly, most schools end up spending between \$2,000 and \$4,000.

### **Teacher and Parent Training**

- There are six ELP workshops throughout the year, one Teacher Workshop and five Parent/Teacher Workshops (more information available).
- The Teacher Workshop will be held on a Saturday in August. The Teacher Workshop will give the teachers more information on the program. This is, also, the day that teachers choose their ELP date. It is MANDATORY for teachers who wish to participate in ELP to attend; if the teacher, or an assigned representative, is not present, their spot is forfeited.
- The Parent/Teacher Workshops are held on Saturdays throughout the rest of the school year. Schools do not need to come to more than one of these and will be assigned a specific one depending on their chosen ELP date. Every station MUST have at least one trained parent.

### **California Social-Science Standards**

The Environmental Living Program covers many components of 3rd-5th grade Social Science curriculum. Below are just some of the standards ELP covers:

- 3.2 Students describe the American Indian nations in their local region long ago and in the recent past.
- 3.3 Students draw from historical and community resources to organize the sequence of local historical events and describe how each period of settlement left its mark on the land.
- 4.2 Students describe the social, political, cultural, and economic life and interactions among people of California from the pre-Columbian societies to the Spanish mission and Mexican rancho periods.
- 4.3 Students explain the economic, social, and political life in California from the establishment of the Bear Flag Republic through the Mexican-American War, the Gold Rush, and the granting of statehood.
- 5.8 Students trace the colonization, immigration, and settlement patterns of the American people from 1789 to the mid-1800s, with emphasis on the role of economic incentives, effects of the physical and political geography, and transportation systems.

We appreciate your interest in the Environmental Living Program. If you have any questions, please contact us at (916) 323-8112 or [Jared.Jones@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Jared.Jones@parks.ca.gov). Applications are available at the Fort or online at [www.parks.ca.gov/suttersfort](http://www.parks.ca.gov/suttersfort) and [www.suttersfort.org](http://www.suttersfort.org) under the Environmental Living Program heading.

